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CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

# ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the  
Irish Radio Transmitters Society  
November/December 2006

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Society or the Editor

**Next deadline January 27th**



IRTS President Rev. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS making a presentation to President Mary McAleese President of Ireland at Arus an Uachtarán (see page 15)

**IRTS 80m Contest  
January 1st**

**Theory Examination  
January 18th**

**Coolmine Rally  
February 4th**

**Limerick Rally  
March 11th**

**Spring Counties Contest  
April 9th**

**Lough Erne Radio Show  
April 15th**

**IRTS AGM Weekend  
April 21/22nd 2007**

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## News Bulletins and Readers

<b>Sunday</b>			
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB (as Gaeilge)
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM
<b>Monday</b>			
Cork	2000	145.750	FM
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM
Louth	2000	145.675	
Galway	2000	145.625	
<b>Tuesday</b>			
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM

Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC  
Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS  
Sean EI5GH,  
As 1100  
Tommy EI7IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF  
As 1145

Con EI7DJB, Vincent EI7HN  
Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW  
Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD  
Aengus EI4ABB, Richard EI5GC

Gareth EI7FZB, Robbie EI8FZB

## Irish Radio Transmitters Society

**80m Contest**  
**January 1st 2007**  
**1200 - 1500**

## New Secretary General of ITU

Hamadoun I. Touré of Mali has been elected the new Secretary-General of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

Delegates to the ITU's 17th Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya, Turkey, also elected Houlin Zhou of China as Deputy Secretary-General.

Both will serve four-year terms.

Leaders of the International Amateur Radio Union say Touré is a friend of amateur radio.

IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, told the ARRL Letter that hams have worked with Touré for the past eight years in his role as Director of the ITU's Telecommunications Development Bureau, and IARU Vice President Tim Ellam, VR6SH, said Touré told him the IARU "has an important role to play in the future" and encouraged the group to "continue its good work in the ITU."

In addition, delegates elected Robert Jones, VE7RWJ, to another term on the 11-member Radio Regulations Board.

## IRTS Elected Committee Members 2006/07

President Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS  
Vice-President Paul Martin EI2CA

### Committee

Thos Caffrey EI2JD  
Joe Fadden EI3IX  
Dave Moore EI4BZ  
Peter Grant EI4HX  
Paul O'Kane EI5DI  
Fergus Millar EI6IB  
Sean Nolan EI7CD  
John Ronan EI7IG  
Seamus McCague EI8BP  
Brian Canning EI8IU  
John McCarthy EI8JA

# Con Hunter EI9V - An Appreciation

“----- and departing leave behind us footprints on the Sands of Time.”

Con Hunter was born in Glanworth, Co.Cork, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 1931 and was educated at St. Coleman's college, Fermoy and UCD where his main subject was mathematics.

He worked with Hoover and PYE Communications both in Cambridge and Dundrum side by side with Roy EI7H, before joining AerLingus in 1960. He retired as head of the Technical Ground School in 1990.

He became a licensed radio amateur in the early fifties and had many life-long friends throughout the world with whom he kept in contact on a regular basis on the HF bands. Echo India Niner Victoria was a well known call on the amateur bands.

Con tried his hand at VHF and the Satellites but HF was his abiding and lifelong interest. He was interested in all of the amateur bands but 20, 10 and more recently 17 were his favourites.

Through his professional connection in aviation radio, Con became a real enthusiast of Collins Radio and among his radio equipment a working S Line and a KWM380 held pride of place in his shack.

Con was interested in all aspects of radio and he made a special study of radio propagation and antennas. Stimulated by a series of articles in QST in 1975 entitled “The DXer's Crystal Ball” by Ed.Tilton, W1HDQ, Con maintained records of Solar Flux and A and K indices going back to that time. He graphed these values by hand for each 27 day solar rotation and over years of reading and study he became quite expert in forecasting HF propagation conditions.

Each day without fail, he checked and recorded data from WWV and, more recently, the German Propagation Beacon, DK0WCY, on 10.144MHz as well as “beacon alley” on the 28MHz band.

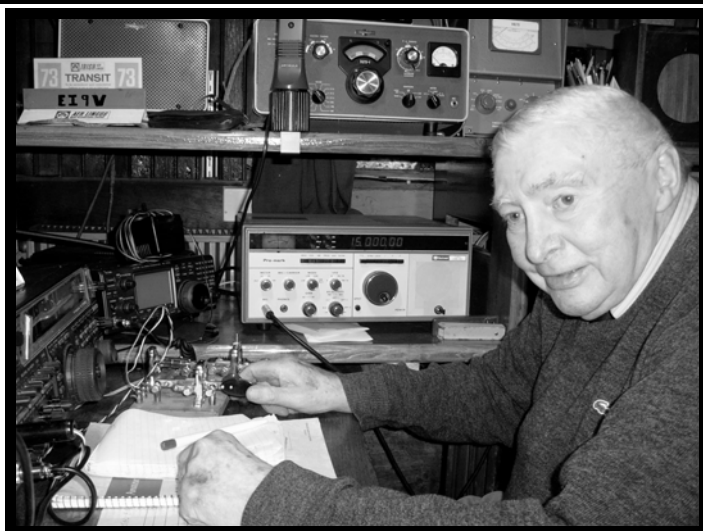
He was a true pioneer and experimenter who was always seeking to learn and to better understand the many facets of HF propagation.

He willingly shared his vast knowledge with beginners and fellow radio hams many of whom learned from his wide experience and from his well prepared and presented lectures.

Con did a great deal of work for the IRTS. Most recently he assisted in compiling a question pool that will be used in future multiple choice examinations for the Experimenter's Licence.

He was President of the IRTS from 1975 to 1977 and again from 1989 to 1991 and has been an honorary Vice-President for many years.

The EI9's were a good crop! Bill 9F, Sim 9Y, Tom 9U and Con 9V, all of them in their own way made tremendous contributions to the development of Experimental



Radio in EI and gave willingly and extensively of their time to the administrative aspects of our activities about which very few want to know.

The sad news of Con's death was announced on the noon radio news on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, the day he died. Callers after the news were very obviously shocked to hear of his death. Comments such as “We were all privileged to know him”, “He will leave a gaping hole in amateur radio in EI”, “He gave encouragement and help to all especially beginners”, “He was a father figure in amateur radio”, and “We learned a lot from him both in the technical area and from his operating standards” were among the remarks recorded. All of these things and many more are true of Con EI9V. Father figure, helper, mentor, expert but most of all friend.

He will be sadly missed by all of us who were privileged to know him.

The passing of this father figure surely leaves a gaping hole in Amateur Radio in EI which for many of us can never be filled. Just a few weeks ago we listened to him in QSO with his friend Jim 2BB.

Today he rests in the next row to his lifelong friend Tom 9U in Dardistown Cemetery, right next to the perimeter fence of Dublin airport with which they both had long associations.

To his sorrowing wife Margaret, his daughter Ann Marie his sons Tom and Finbarr, his daughter-in-law Violet and his four grandchildren we extend the sympathy of radio amateurs at home and abroad.

Creidim go bhfuil Solas na bhFlaitheas ag soilsiu go cin-ealta ar a anam dilis

Bernie O'Sullivan EI6AX

(P.S. Most of the data in this appreciation came from Con's great friend Seán EI7CD)

### **EI5IA Silent Key**

We regret to announce the death of Don Gibbins EI5IA.

A former RAF navigator, Don originally from Galway moved to Westport and was the IRTS Club representative for the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network.

At the recent Mayo Rally a minutes silence was observed for both Don and Richard Glynn EI5GC.

The removal and funeral service had a large representation from the Radio Experimenter community, which included Rob Mannion G3XFD.

May he rest in peace.

### **EI8IB Silent Key**

Brendan Kavanagh EI8IB passed away after a short illness on Tuesday December 12th.

Brendan was well known to experimenters in the Dublin area as he read the IRTS news bulletins on 2 metres for many years.

We extend our deepest sympathies to his parents Danny and Tina and to his brothers and sisters.

May he rest in peace.

### **Richard Glynn EI5GC Silent Key**

We regret to inform you of the passing of Richard Glynn, EI5GC, Galway City, on Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup> after a long illness.

Richard was a native of Salthill and his house was instantly recognised by the large tower with HF beam and cubical quad, which sat neatly into his back garden. He designed most of his antenna installations and had many wire loops around his house, as long as it didn't interfere with his tomato greenhouse, he loved his gardening.

Richard was an active member of the Galway Radio Experimenters Club and was the IRTS newsreader in Galway where the bulletins are read out every Monday night at 8 pm.

If there was a soccer match on TV the news was read quickly as Richard raced downstairs to watch the match. Richard was an avid radio enthusiast and was responsible for getting many a radio ham on the air in Galway.

Richard would always help when people were putting up the HF aerials and ensured their proper orientation and connection.

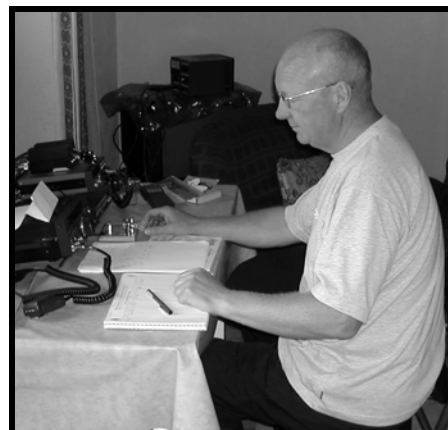
His favourite mode was CW and indeed he ran Morse classes on the repeater as part of the amateur radio classes held in Galway some years back.

Richard was responsible for all of the electrical work on the repeater site and certified all work.

In August 2003, Richard was a historic member of the TAM5 team, helping in the Atlantic crossing of the first model aircraft to fly across the pond.

He was a regular on the annual GREC trip to Inishbofin, ensuring all our equipment was well stored and that we were all well fed!

We wish to extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Marian, his son David, daughter Catherine, brothers and sister.



### **Irish Radio Transmitters Society 80m Counties Contest January 1st 2007 1200 - 1500**

### **75th Jubilee Logos**

The special 75th jubilee commemorative IRTS logos are available to members for use on their QSL cards, websites etc. Use of the logos will help promote the Society and the 75th celebrations.

The logos can be downloaded from the Society website [www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie). Simply go to the information section and click on 'Downloads'.

### **Radio Frequency Time Signal Service**

In the UK, the Radio Frequency and Time Signal service which was until now provided by the National Physical Laboratory will be provided by an external company from the 1st of April 2007.

The service is transmitted on 60 kHz and provides a time and frequency standard signal.

VT communications will build new infrastructure to deliver the signal from its facility in Cumbria.

The new infrastructure will include time code generation equipment, remote control and monitoring system and a new Low Frequency Transmitter.

### **Theory Examination**

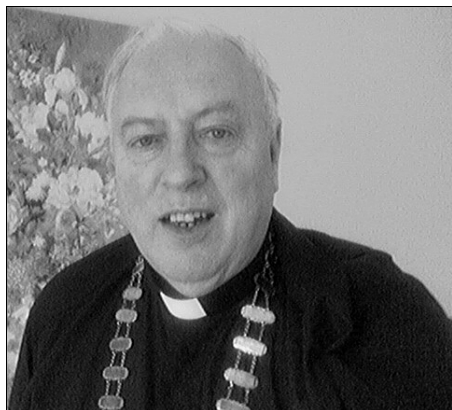
The next Theory Examination for the Experimenter's Licence will be held on Thursday the 18th of January 2007 at 2 p.m. in the offices of ComReg, Abbey Court, Irish Life Centre, Dublin.

In order to secure one of the remaining places anyone wishing to sit the examination in January should contact Seán Nolan EI7CD either at QTHR or by e-mail to [ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie](mailto:ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie)

Those studying for the examination may wish to obtain a copy of the CD Course Guide produced by the Society. These are available from Seán EI7CD at a cost of €5.00 to cover registration and postage and packaging.

# Christmas Message from the IRTS President

## Rev. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS



This is my first time addressing you since I took over as President from Sean Donelan EI4GK last April.

I would like to begin by thanking Sean for the great work he did both as Treasurer for ten years and as President for three years. We are fortunate that he has volunteered his services and his expertise to act as Treasurer for the Society again.

In my opening address on becoming President, I stated that I wished to build on the achievements of the previous Committee. We are fortunate in having a wonderfully dedicated group, and I wish to pay tribute to them and all the officers of the Society, both new and old on your behalf. They give so much of their time and energy to the work of our Society.

Another of my aims and objectives was to increase awareness and transparency in the Society in its dealing with our membership. One way of achieving this I felt was to re-activate Rule 17 and have a Regional Representative present in each of the Regions who would represent the Society at a local level and would be a point of contact for our members and indeed anyone who may not be in any club. This has now been put in place.

We also welcome any member who wishes to attend any of our committee meetings as an observer. It is also planned to develop and improve our presence at Rallies by having a better stand and selection of society memorabilia etc.

Over the past number of years we have been experiencing a gradual change in the Radio Experimenter scene. There has been a decline in clubs and Societies of-

ten due to increased costs in hiring premises and secondly to the vexed question of insurance.

This change had also been influenced by the decline in new members due to lack of opportunities to sit an exam. Fortunately this has now been redressed and a new crop of licensees are coming on stream.

Already many new classes have started or are starting around the country which gives us great hope for the future.

Both our web page and our publication Echo Ireland are now of excellent quality. Our web page contains the most up to date information on every aspect of the Society's life. I would like to pay a tribute to Joe Ryan EI7GY on the professionalism of the site and hope that our members will use it regularly.

Echo Ireland continues to be a very important organ conveying for us a vision of how much activity is taking place around the country.

On your behalf I would like to thank the editor Dave Moore EI4BZ and Sean Donelan EI4GK who looks after the distribution.

For me personally it has been a busy eight months. I have attended four rallies in EI and it was nice to meet so many of you at them.

One of my first tasks on becoming President was to represent the Society at the RSGB AGM in Belfast and to address the gathering. There I had the opportunity of meeting once again Region 1 president Ole Garpestad LA2RR and getting acquainted with both the Dutch and UK Presidents and informing them about our Jubilee year celebration plans for next year. They expressed the hope of being with us for our AGM.

After that I attended my first meeting with ComReg. I must add that I found them to be very helpful and understanding and wherever possible accommodating to our requests.

Next it was on to Ballinasloe for the combined CW field day and after that on to Friedrichshaven for my first visit to this European Rally where some 20,000 people were gathered.

It was great to see the Irish Ballooning

and Radio Club stand there flying the flag and to meet so many EI visitors. We are all looking forward to having an IRTS stand there next year.

After the summer break it was back to a committee meeting in Cork in September and in Portlaoise in October.

I should hasten to add that all engagements by the society's officers are paid for by themselves and are not funded by the society, the exception being an IARU meeting which is held every three years.

Next year is going to be one of the most important years in the Society's calendar when we celebrate our diamond jubilee. A sub committee was appointed by last year's committee under the chairmanship of the Vice President Paul Martin EI2CA. They have produced an ambitious and imaginative programme, details of which have already been published.

Two special events worthy of note are the first EI DXpedition to Africa in March and a CQIR contest in September.

A group of us were received by President McAleese at Arus an Uachtaran on November 15<sup>th</sup> to launch our jubilee year's activities.

President McAleese has sent a special message to the Society to mark the occasion for which we are very grateful.

I am looking forward to launching the year with the Jubilee callsign on January 1<sup>st</sup> in the 80m counties contest.

It is a short afternoon contest (only three hours) so I hope to hear and work as many of you as possible with that callsign and to send you new years greetings.

I would particularly like every county in Ireland to be represented.

So why not come on air and say "Hello". Lets hear EI's in numbers.

May I wish you and your families a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

Beannachtaí na Nollaig oraibh agus ar do clann go leir agus gach dea ghui san ath bhliain.

Finbarr EI1CS  
President.



# HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

Welcome to yet another 'HF Happenings' and of course this one is the last edition in 2006.

What an eventful year it has been, what with the several major DXpeditions that took place, various contests & special events and despite being at the end of this present sunspot cycle, some rather nice DX has been worked. Let's hope that 2007 is going to be as productive!

Re-capping from the last edition, the previously mentioned 5A7A DXpedition certainly graced the airwaves with some tremendous signals being heard on many bands.

One of the team's major goals was to make in excess of 50,000 QSO's. This figure has been more than doubled, with almost 110,000 QSO's making it through. All were running high power stations into Spiderbeam antennas and were QRV from 16<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Brief band/mode statistics are as follows:

Starting in January 2007 a new Amateur Radio Station license has been issued from the SMOM, The Sovereign Military Order of Malta. 1A4A has been issued and will be managed by IZ4AKS, Giorgio. The first activity from this station will be from January 2-7, 2007, from the extraterritorial zone of the Magistral Villa on the Aventine hill in Rome.

The operators will be IZ4AKS, IZ4DPV, I4UFH, IK4UPB and IW0DJB (HV5PUL). Activity will cover from 2 to 160 meters, SSB/CW/RTTY modes.

Three stations (maybe four) will be active at the same time. They will be concentrating on DX areas, such as Japan, South America and West coast. Also a special emphasis will be made on the low bands. The license has been granted into a fund-raising program to support the worldwide relief activities of the Order of Malta.

The Order follows its historic hospital mission (Tuitio Fidei Auxilium Pauperum) providing help to the needy and the

part of a support plan for the rebirth of South Sudan, coordinated by the Order of Malta, together with the Italian government.

Updated information's and details about the DXpedition can be found at <http://www.1a4a.org>. The Web site is still in the construction phase.

To learn more about The Order Of Malta, visit <http://www.orderofmalta.org>.

The QSL manager for 1A4A will be IZ4DPV.

8J8WSC is a special Japanese callsign until March 4, 2007. This one celebrates the FIS Nordic World Ski Championship being held in Sapporo on Hokkaido, February 22-March 4. QSL via the bureau. <http://www.sapporo2007.com/>.

Special Russian calls RP65MB, RP65FWW and others with RP65, RP3, UE3 prefixes, plus UE4CGP were active in the last few days to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Moscow of World War II. The Moscow regional branch of the SRR organized this. Info on an award is available at [www.srr-mo.ru](http://www.srr-mo.ru) in Russian, or from [rv3dut@narod.ru](mailto:rv3dut@narod.ru). QSL RP65MB and RP65FWW via RZ3FR. All QSOs will be confirmed automatically through the SRR bureau.

Annobon Island has again been QRV lately, this time by Elmo-EA5BYP, between 21<sup>st</sup> October to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2006. Annobon is a small tropical island of volcanic origin. It is approximately 17 km square and is surrounded by other small, uninhabited islands.

This community of about 1,000 inhabitants is administered by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. The Annobonese's main economic activity is fishing, which

is outstanding during fish migrations (mainly in September). Fishing is done using primitive and fragile, small flat-bottomed canoes called "cayucos". Agricultural production is limited by the volcanic soils found on the island and much of the food consumed is brought in by ship from Equatorial Guinea.

The island was discovered by Diego Ramirez de la Diaz, a Spanish sailor in 1470 and named as Isla San Antonio. Later on it became a Spanish colony together with Fernando Poo. In 1778 Portugal and Spain parted the coastline and in 1779,

(Continued on page 7)

## 5A7A band/Mode Breakdown

	CW	SSB	RTTY	PSK	SSTV	FM	WSJT	FSK441	Band
160m	6344	928	283	98	0	0	0	0	7653
80m	10397	7243	377	4	0	0	0	0	18021
40m	13018	11984	1273	222	0	0	0	0	26497
30m	7553	0	490	9	0	0	0	0	8052
20m	8351	9920	1490	11	71	0	0	0	19843
17m	4231	4598	802	55	0	0	0	0	9686
15m	6388	8846	205	0	0	0	0	0	15439
12m	1872	1616	0	0	0	0	0	0	3488
10m	1893	1318	0	0	0	0	0	0	3211
6m	41	8	0	0	0	1	2	0	52
2m	2	6	0	0	0	0	63	210	281
70cm	1	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	9
Mode	60091	46473	4920	399	71	1	67	210	112232

1-Band QSOs:	14,722
2-Band QSOs:	5,269
3-Band QSOs:	3,282
4-Band QSOs:	2,368
5-Band QSOs:	1,948
6-Band QSOs:	1,444
7-Band QSOs:	984
8-Band QSOs:	638
9-Band QSOs:	539
10-Band QSOs:	16
11-Band QSOs:	2

QSL this operation via DL9USA.

sick. Today the Order of Malta is a major global, professional organization in terms of the humanitarian aid, medical care and emergency medicine it provides, in its management of hospitals, specialized homes for dependent elderly people, socio-medical care centres, the collection and transporting of medicines and the training of workers and ambulance staff. The Order currently has medical and humanitarian programs in more than 120 countries.

The first activity of 1A4A (One Aid 4 Africa) will help with the collection of funds to build a school for young girls, as

(Continued from page 6)

Annobon became a part of Spain, and Principe e Sao Tome as Fernando Poo became a Portuguese Colony.

In 1801 a small fortress was built on Annobon, and in the same year, Spain also gave rights to Britain to use the island as a harbour for fresh water.

In 1959 Equatorial Guinea became a Spanish province and Annobon also, but did not form an independent government.

In 1968 the island became a part of the new formed land of E. Guinea.

The climate is tropical—heavy rainfall, high humidity, and frequent seasonal changes with violent windstorms.

Here is a list of the EI's that made it through:

15 SSB	EI2JD
40 SSB	EI3GZ
20 SSB	EI3IO
20 SSB	EI4CF
15 SSB	EI4CF
15 SSB	EI4II
15 SSB	EI5GM
17 SSB	EI6JK
17 SSB	EI7JN
20 SSB	EI8HA
17 SSB	EI9FBB
15 SSB	EI9JF
40 SSB	EI9JF
20 SSB	EI9JF
17 SSB	EI9JF

This operation is QSLed Direct only to EA5BYP.

Moving onto some interesting forthcoming IOTA activations that are taking place during late December we see operations taking place from 'Hunting Island' NA-110. This one is manned by Rich, K4FCP and is QSLed via buro or direct.

ZY6GK should attract some attention from both IOTA chasers and Prefix hunters alike. This is the special call sign from Itaparica Island (SA-023). Activity will be mainly on 10, 15 & 20M and possibly 30 & 40 if antennas permit. The operator will be Chris, PY7GK. QSL to his home call.

More Brazilian ops will be operating from Itaparica Island (SA-023) from December 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. PY7GK, PY7RP & PY7VI will be signing ZY6T from this unusual one. QSL this one via PY7GK.

9M2MRS will be on again from Penang Island. (AS-015), starting January 1<sup>st</sup> and

QRV until 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. '07. QSL to Rich, PA0RRS, who will be the operator of this one.

The following is a press release updating the forthcoming DXpedition to St. Brandon:

FSDXA St. Brandon DXpedition -  
Bulletin No.2  
By G3XTT, Don Field

The Five Star DXers Association (FSDXA) expedition to St. Brandon (3B7) is still on course for September 2007. The plan is to be QRV from Friday 7th September to Monday 24th September, ensuring two full weeks and three weekends of activity. This Press Release is by way of an interim progress report, in response to a number of enquiries we have received.

The team is aware that a Polish expedition to Agalega has been announced for April 2007, but considers that demand for this rare one is such that an FSDXA-scale operation is fully justified. For example, our D68C operation netted in excess of 160,000 contacts, despite a Spanish operation the previous month which handed out almost 30,000 D6 contacts. Similarly, our 3B9C operation netted over 150,000 contacts, despite Robert 3B9FR, a resident of Rodrigues, being reasonably QRV over several years. 3B6/7 is much higher in the Wanted Lists than either of these entities.

An advance team of two will visit Mauritius early in the New Year to finalise many of the arrangements, and we will have more information following that visit. This visit was postponed from Oc-



tober due to illness, but all plans are now back on track and we are confident that we will be able to mount a successful large-scale (12 stations, 3 weekends, 100k+ QSOs) operation from St. Brandon in September 2007.

3B7C will have Joint Leaders by way of Neville Cheadle G3NUG and Don Beattie G3BJ. We have received a number of enquiries about joining the expedition. As detailed in our previous announcement, we do have a full team in place. However, we will maintain a file of those who have expressed interest in case vacancies occur.

An early note about QSL arrangements. Neville G3NUG will be the lead QSL manager and will coordinate the QSL manager team using the very successful StarLog programme.

Send direct QSLs to:

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG  
Lower Withers Barns  
Middleton on the Hill  
LEOMINSTER  
Herefordshire  
United Kingdom HR6 0HY

Bureau cards to the RSGB bureau marked "G3NUG"

There will be a facility for email requests via the website.

Last but by no means least, we welcome Martin Lynch and Sons and Nevada Communications, both major UK dealers, as sponsors. We also welcome Northern Illinois DX Association as our first club sponsor.

As a reminder, our website will be accessible via both <http://www.3b7c.com> and <http://www.fsdxa.com/3b7c> where information will be posted as it becomes available.

Don Field G3XTT, NK1G  
([g3xtt@lineone.net](mailto:g3xtt@lineone.net))  
(FSDXA Publicity Officer)

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

January '07 will see Bangladesh QRV again after a short lapse in operations from here. The callsign used will be S21XA. We hope to have more information on this one for the next edition.

Moving onto your reports for the past 2 months period has seen some nice, rather unusual openings on the higher bands, where quite a lot of DX is being worked. Of course, as usual, 10M usually opens at some stage during the CQWW weekend, but using the useful aid of the NCDXF beacon monitor, other openings do often occur.

Here is a brief extract from my log as follows:

Using a TS-850S, 400W into a IMAX 2000 worked:

YV4A, PJ4E, LU7HN, PY5YA, Z36W, 5B/AJ2O, LZ7J, 9K2HN, CT9L, EF8A, EA9LZ, CU2A, 3XM6JR, VQ9X, V51W, 3V6T, KC1XX & SX5P all on 10M SSB.

17M logged CN8PA, VE3QT, 5A7A, 3XM6JR, 3C0M, FY1FL & PY7ZZ.

Using a TH-3 as antenna for 20 & 15M worked: VK9CGG, V26B, 6W1RY & VK9AA on 15M while 20M netted : 3A2MD, EY8CQ, ZC4T, EP3HF, XF4DL, VU7LD, AP2DKH & PJ4/WA4PGM.

Using 100W into a 1/2 size G5RV worked VO1JNS, P40Z, YN2N, T99D, HK0GU, 6W1RY, 6Y3LP, 3V6T & 5A7A.

Declan, EI9FVB, has again been very busy lately working quite a few new ones using his new 80m dipole at 40 ft, logging: OX3KQ, GX3RCW, 4O60BH, GB6PAS, 3XM6JR, LX/PA6Z, & MS0WRC on SSB.

Using a G5RV he logged : 5A7A, RZ6HAZ, TF3BM, HA507SQ, EO3Q, LX/PA6Z & D44BS on 40m.

Using a MQ24SR beam antenna worked : VK9AA, W2MAT, UY2UA, EM10I, GM2T, VO1MP, EW8MW & Z32ID on 15m, while on 20m he worked S79SG, T70A, W9RE, UT2IWT, UA9SP, LY7A, R7C, TC4ITU, SV9GPV, A41MX,

VP2V/AH6HY, TK9Z, VE1OTA, T93M & V26B.

Also taking advantage of the few 10m openings worked : V51W, 9A7A, CX5BW, YM2W, EA6AZ, S57DX, TA3D, CT3YA, J48RT & OH8X. All these contacts were made using 100W from an Icom IC756 Pro II.

Likewise, Nicky, EI9JF has also been very busy on the bands lately chasing the 5A7A team. He has worked them on every band from 160m to 10m, some 20 QSO's in total. Using a Yaesu FT 1000 Mk5 & 400W into a 4 element SteppIR he worked, XF4DL, D2DX, TG9ANF, 5V7SE, VQ9JC, HK0GU, HC8N, 6W1IRW & ZL8R all on 20m CW. 15m CW logged him : XF4DL, ZB2/DH8WLA, D2DX, 3B8/OM0C, FS/AH8DX, HC2SL, ZF2ZH & V47NT while on SSB he worked 5R8FU, EP3HF & 3B8CF.

17m netted him VU7LD, XF4DL & VK9CGG on SSB while on the key he logged XE1YJS, VP2VVV, TU2/F5LDY, AZ5QQ, LU5FC, 8P6CF & VP5/K7LAZ.

Doing exceptionally well on 10M he logged : P40T, VP2MDG, ZF1A, 6V7D, 3B8/OM0C, TK5EP, GD6IA, PZ5ZY, V26K, VK9AA, HC8N, V51/DJ4SO, TZ6LZ & V47NT all on CW.

12m also opened up nicely for him netting: CN2WW, VK6HD, 9V1PC, TY5ZR, 9G5OO, UN7AM, 4X4FR, A22/JA4ATV, V51AS, 7Q7BP, VQ9JC, TZ6RF, ZS6AJD & VP8LP.

Using a 2 element beam on 40m he logged VP8DKF, S9SS, UK8IZ, JA2BAY, YI9KT, E51PDX, CM2PO, VK6BN, ZL8R, D2DX & VK9CGG on CW.

Same antenna on 30m worked XF4DL, XU7MDY, VK6BN, KP4L, TI5/K2PLF, ZD7BG, YN4SU/9 & PJ4/K4BAI.

Using a windom antenna on 80 & 160m logged VK7WK, 8Q7DV, ZB2FK, AA1K, A61Q, 6V7D, TA3D, VE1ZZ & TK5EP all on Top band CW while on 80m netted T77EB, KF3B, HI8RV, 3XM6JR, 6W1SW, TZ6NS, OX3KQ, ST2BF & ZF1A.

I'd like to welcome Jeremy, EI5GM to this column, who submitted an extract from his log over the past 2 month period. Running a Yaesu FT 1000D, 400W into a Cushcraft X-7 logged him some rather nice 20m contacts as follows: 5A7A, C91BWW, FG1GW, 3XD2Z, C6APR, 5Z1A & EX8KS all on SSB. Using the key he worked T88MR, 6Y1V, A92GR, VK9AA, 3C0M & XF4DL.

## ZL8R DXpedition 2006

They departed Tauranga, New Zealand on 7th October 2006 and arrived to Raoul Island three days later.

They were active as ZL8R from the evening of the 10th October until the morning of the 18th October 2006 (local time).

The grid locator was AG10as, and they were some 40m above sea level, right at the ocean, on the northern side of the island.

There were 8 operators:

EI6FR, HB9ASZ, K9ZO, N6MZ, N0TT, VK6DXI, W7EW, 9V1YC

In seven days of operation they made over 40,000 QSOs on all HF bands, plus some vie EME on 6m.

All expenses were paid by DXpedition members.

Icom sponsored the radios, IC7000's which worked absolutely beautifully.

The team ask that "if we have operated up to expectation of the DX world, we hope DX-stations will assist us by adding extra green IRC's with their directs send to VE3XN. Thanks."

Only individual Hams support can keep the DXpeditions coming....



Declan EI6FR operating ZL8R

As usual, the above lists show exactly what is being worked and what is out there for the taking. We hope conditions will be on the incline during 2007 bringing some slightly longer openings on the higher bands. DX opportunities are probably at their maximum during the Winter months for the lower bands, so until next year, keep tuning and calling CQ, you could be surprised. Best seasons greetings to all.

Special thanks to all for their extracts, to Bernie, W3UR of the Daily DX and to Don Field, G3XTT for some of the information used.

73's de Dave EI9FBB





## Tipperary Amateur Radio Group AGM

Tipperary Amateur Radio Group AGM was held November 2nd, 2006. Many thanks to everyone who attended the AGM.

The outgoing committee were returned to their existing posts.

The committee for the coming year is:

Chairperson

John Ronan - EI7IG

Vice Chairperson

Eamonn Kavanagh - EI3FFB

Secretary

John Burke - EI2JB

Treasurer

Tommy Hallinan - EI2IT

P.R.O.

Paul Norris - EI3ENB

Group meetings take place on the first Thursday of every month at 8pm (local time) in Raheen House Hotel, Clonmel, County Tipperary. The relaxed surroundings of this beautiful hotel make for informal and relaxed setting for our monthly meetings. All visitors to our group meetings are welcome to attend and there is always someone monitoring 145.450MHz & 433.450MHz in case directions to the hotel are required.

## Emergency Centre of Activity Frequencies

The National Co-ordinator would like to remind EI amateurs of the **Emergency Centre of Activity Frequencies** adopted by the IARU Region 1 General Conference 2005.

These are not channels for exclusive emergency only use, but are preferred, centre frequencies for such activities. The centre frequencies are as follows.

Global Centre of Activity per band:

**15m 21,360 kHz**

**17m 18,160 kHz**

**20m 14,300 kHz**

Region 1 Centre of Activity per band:

**40m 7,060 kHz**

**80m 3,760 kHz**

## Patron Saint of Radio Amateurs

### Maksymilian Maria Kolbe

8 January 1894 – 14 August 1941

**SP3RN**

Born as Rajmund Kolbe, he was a Polish Franciscan friar who volunteered to die in place of a family father in the Nazi Auschwitz concentration camp. He is venerated in the Catholic Church as Saint Maximilian Kolbe.



#### Biography

Rajmund Kolbe was born in 1894 in Zduńska Wola, at that time in Russia, as the second son of Juliusz Kolbe and Marianna Kolbe (née Dąbrowska).

His parents moved to Pabianice, where they worked first as weavers, then ran a bookstore.

Later, in 1914, his father joined the Józef Piłsudski's Polish Legions and was captured and executed by the Russians for fighting for the independence of a partitioned Poland.

In 1907 Rajmund and his elder brother Franciszek decided to join the Franciscan order. They illegally crossed the border between Russia and Austria-Hungary and joined the Franciscan junior seminary in Lwów.

In 1910, Rajmund was allowed to enter the novitiate. He professed his first vows in 1911, adopting the name Maksymilian, and the final vows in 1914, in Rome, adopting the names Maksymilian Maria, to show his veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In 1912, Friar Maksymilian was sent to Kraków, and, in the same year, to Rome, where he studied philosophy, theology, mathematics, and physics. He earned the doctorate in philosophy in 1915 at the Pontifical Gregorian University, and the doctorate in theology in 1919 at the Pontifical University of St. Bonaventure. During his time as a student, he witnessed vehement demonstrations against the pope by freemasons in Rome and was inspired to organize the Militia Immaculata, or Army of Mary, to work for conversion of sinners through the intercession of the Virgin Mary.

In 1918, he was ordained a priest.

In 1919, Father Maksymilian returned to the newly independent Poland, where he was very active in promoting the veneration of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, founding and supervising the monastery of Niepokalanów near Warsaw, a seminary, a radio station, and several other organizations and publications.

Between 1930 and 1936, he took a series of missions to Japan, where he founded a monastery at the outskirts of Nagasaki, a Japanese paper, and a seminary.

During the Second World War, in the Niepokalanów Friary, he provided shelter to refugees from Greater Poland, including 2000 Jews.

Kolbe was also active as a radio amateur, with Polish call letters SP3RN, vilifying Nazi activities by reporting the truth.

On 17th February 1941, he was arrested by German Gestapo and imprisoned in the Pawiak prison, and, on 25 May, transferred to the Auschwitz I concentration camp as prisoner #16670.

In July 1941, a man from Kolbe's bunker had vanished, prompting the Nazis to pick 10 men from the same bunker to be starved to death to deter further escape attempts. (The man was later found drowned in the camp latrine.)

When one of the ten cried out, lamenting about his family, Kolbe asked to take his place, and the wish was granted.

After two weeks of starvation, only four of the ten men were still alive, including Kolbe. The cells were needed, and Kolbe and the other three were executed with an injection of carbolic acid.

He was canonized by Pope John Paul II on 10 October 1982, in the presence of Franciszek Gajowniczek, the man whose place he took and who still survived.

## AFRI75

A team of nine EI and GI operators have signed up for the IRTS jubilee year Dxpeditio to Swaziland next March. The group will be on the air for the Saint Patrick's weekend and for the following ten days, including the WPX SSB contest. Callsigns are not yet to hand but we will be carrying a full profile of the team and the preparations for the expedition in the next issue of Echo Ireland. If you are quick, there might just be time to sign up and join the guys in Africa and help out on some real DX pileups! Contact Paul EI2CA on 0872523908.

## Worked All Ireland Jubilee Award

A special IRTS 75th Jubilee Worked All Ireland Award is being introduced. All you have to do is work stations in 75 different WAI squares anytime during 2007. There are no other conditions.

The rules for the normal WAI Award Scheme apply. Please see [www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie).

If you want to continue to qualify for the basic award in the regular WAI series you need 175 squares in at least 15 counties (3 must be in GI) and one island.

For those not familiar with the WAI Awards Scheme a brief explanation follows. The scheme is based on the Irish National Grid system which divides the country into large squares and gives a single letter for each square.

Each large square contains 1200 small squares measuring 10 x 10km and these are the WAI squares.

Several road map publishers show the national grid and the advent of the GPS makes it very easy to identify the square you are in.

The counties contest on New Years day on 80 metres should give many stations a good start towards the 75 squares required.

If you have any queries, send an email to [info@irts.ie](mailto:info@irts.ie).

Send your claim for the award with €5.00 to Jubilee WAI Award, P.O. Box 462, Dublin 9.

## Changes to Amateur Radio Rules in the United States

The long-awaited changes to the amateur rules are set to take effect at 12:01 AM EST December 15. The so-called "Omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, includes a significant expansion of the 75 meter phone band and a variety of other changes.

The highlights are:

\* For Amateur Extra class licensees, the 75 meter phone band will start at 3600 kHz, while Advanced class licensees start at 3700 kHz and Generals at 3800 kHz. The high end of the CW/RTTY/Digital band is now 3600 kHz (although CW is allowed on the entire band).

\* On 40 meters, Amateur Extra and Advanced licensees will be able to operate phone beginning at 7125 kHz, while Generals start at 7175 kHz. The top end of the CW/RTTY/Digital band will be 7125 kHz (although CW is allowed on the entire band).

\* There are no changes to the 20 meter band.

\* On 15 meters, the General class phone band now starts at 21275 kHz.

\* On 10 meters, Novice and Technician Plus licensees can now operate CW/RTTY/Digital from 28000 kHz to 28300 kHz.

\* In addition, Novices and Tech Plus licensees can use CW only on the same frequencies as General and Advanced licensees on the 80, 40 and 15 meter bands: 3525 kHz-3600 kHz; 7025 kHz-7125 kHz and 21025 kHz-21200 kHz.

## The Telegraph Cable.

The American Samuel Morse in 1838 gave the first public demonstration of his system for using pulses of electrical current to carry coded messages over a wire and in 1844 its viability for general use was demonstrated when it carried its first message "What hath God wrought?" over part of a 40 mile telegraph line constructed between Washington and Baltimore.

The subsequent success of the rapidly expanding system on each side of the Atlantic inevitably conjured up the vision of using it to connect the old and new worlds.

The vision, after many setbacks, became a reality in 1858 when the message "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to men." was cabled from Valentia in County Kerry to be delivered almost instantaneously in Trinity Bay in Newfoundland.

Use of the service was short-lived however; after about two weeks the cable was rendered unusable when excessive current was applied to it.

A further 8 years elapsed before the service was restored through a new cable, almost 1,700 miles in length and laid by Brunel's giant vessel *The Great Eastern*.

Two obscure villages, Valentia in Ireland and Heart's Content in Newfoundland found fame as connecting points of two continents.

## 6 Metre SSB Net

A monthly six metre net meets on the first Monday of each month on 50.135 SSB (horizontal polarisation) at 2100 (local time).

Activity seems to be primarily in the Munster (south-west) area but all are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Frequency: 50.135 MHz

Mode: SSB

Date: First Monday of each month

Time: 2100 (local time)

**Next Net**  
**Monday January 8th 2007**



## Christmas Greetings and Sked

.....EI6AX

Now the time is coming so we all must set apart  
Our frowning and our grumbling and our lack of blissful heart.  
We must join in friendly spirit and exchange some words of cheer,  
For Christmas is a season that comes just once a year.

When Christmas morning echoes to the hum of Santa's toys,  
When dolls are hugged by girls and caps put off by boys,  
Don't get ruffled or excited, put the earphones on your ear,  
For Christmas is a season that comes just once a year.

When the Christmas dinner's finished and you're loaded past your max,  
And you feel the PEP or your tummy is surpassed,  
Don't spoil the blessed afternoon reclining on a chair,  
For Christmas is a season that comes just once a year

So let's brush away the cobwebs from the gear that silent lays,  
Let's electrocute the earwigs that are jammed in the relays,  
Let's hoist the lowly aerial and contact far and near  
For Christmas is a season that comes just once a year.

Now I'd like to fix a sked with all you Irish Men,  
For Christmas Day on 80 on the stroke of 1pm,  
Let's switch the gear to celebrate and exchange a bit of cheer,  
For Christmas is a season that comes just once a year.

So until we meet on 80 there's just for me to say  
May the happiness of Bethlehem be yours on Christmas Day,  
May your homesteads all be havens of Holy Christmas cheer,  
For Christmas is a season that comes just once a year.

### A Reminder from the Incoming QSL Manager

Now that you have used that special event callsign, worked the DX and sent your QSL cards, you then wait for your QSL cards to start arriving from those exotic QTHs.

Spare a thought for your QSL sub-manager! Please let him know your special event callsign because all cards are not marked 'QSL VIA'. It is also essential that Mike EI2CL, who does the initial card sort, is aware of those QSL routes.

Over the past year, new QSL sub-managers have been appointed and your sub-manager may not know that EI3XXX gets the cards for EI0XXX. Club QSL managers should pay particular attention. If the sub-manager does not know the QSL route, the cards get stamped callsign unknown and are returned to the sender. Also let him know if you have passed the Morse test and got a new callsign. Cards will still arrive for your old callsign and he may not be aware of your upgrade.

**Please notify all special event callsigns  
as they are not notified to us by ComReg.**

73 and Good DX  
Pat Fitzpatrick,  
Incoming QSL Manager  
Sub Manager for EI3's

## Jamboree on the Air

Scouting Ireland wishes to express its thanks to Amateur Radio Experimenters for their assistance in running JOTA Stations over the weekend of October 21st and 22nd and in particular, the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group for the use of the IRLP node attached to its repeater network together with all Experimenters for their patience in allowing Scouts to use the repeater network.

Scouting Ireland had a total of 8 JOTA stations this year. According to preliminary reports, contact was made with Scouts throughout Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand.

The best contact heard on the bands was a four way QSO between the JOTA stations in Larch Hill, Mount Melleray and Clontarf on Saturday with a Scout Group near Perth in Australia with the aid of IRLP. This QSO lasted two hours and Scouts from Clontarf also contacted this Australian Group again on Sunday where they spoke with each other for another 45 minutes.

Besides communicating on the airwaves, other JOTA activities included electronic kit building projects.

Scouting Ireland's JOTA stations, this year, were –

EI1SI - 2nd Kerry Sea Scouts operating from Fenit,

EI3SI - operating from Larch Hill, Dublin,

EI4SI – 132<sup>nd</sup> Bayside Scouts Radio Group operating from the Martello Tower, Howth,

EI5SI - operating from the Scout Centre in Mount Melleray,

EI9SI - 66th Dublin operating, with the assistance of North Dublin Radio Club, from the Scout Den in Clontarf,

EI4WSG - 4th Wicklow operating from Wicklow,.

EI6BKB – 17<sup>th</sup> Dublin operating from Dalkey.

MN0AKU - 4th Tyrone operating, with the assistance of the Foyle & District Amateur Radio Club, from Bready, Strabane.

Groups that participated in JOTA should by now have submitted reports which were due by 30<sup>th</sup> November.

The report form can be downloaded from the Scouting Ireland Radio Scouting webpage at [www.scouts.ie/international/jota](http://www.scouts.ie/international/jota).

Reports received from Groups will be used in compiling the National Report, which will be sent to the World Scout Bureau in Geneva.

Further information about Radio Scouting including training material can be obtained from the Scouting Ireland JOTA Team by emailing [jota@scouts.ie](mailto:jota@scouts.ie) or by visiting the Scouting Ireland Radio Scouting webpage.

## Limerick Radio Club 60th Anniversary

This year, 2006, marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Limerick Radio Club. To commemorate the year, the Club has obtained permission from ComReg to use the special call-sign EI60LRC.

Sixty years is a long time since its foundation and Amateur Radio has seen many technological developments in that period. It is important in this year of commemoration to remember those enthusiastic amateurs who started it all in Limerick all those years ago.

The Club was founded in 1946 by a number of local radio enthusiasts, coming together as a group, to provide a bond for their common interest in radio.

The founding members included Bryan Fogarty EI6X and Tom O Connor EI9U, sadly both no longer with us.

Some of the original members obtained their experimenter's licence rapidly as they held professional radio qualifications and thus were automatically eligible to apply for an experimenter's licence.

Others had to undertake their own private study of radio theory and Morse code and sit the special examination of the Department of Post and Telegraphs. On passing this examination they were then eligible to apply for their experimenter's licence.

In the early days, club meetings were held in The Radio Section, Sarsfield Army Barracks, in Limerick. This was an ideal venue, as the members were allowed access there to the various radio training facilities.

However in later years, for military security reasons, the venue for meetings was transferred to the Regional Technical College at Moylish (now the Limerick Institute of Technology).

Since its foundation the Club has been to the forefront in the development of amateur radio activity in Ireland. It became synonymous with the running of DXpeditions to islands off the coast of Ireland. Almost every year club members were to be seen heading to one of the many islands off the coast.

These DXpeditions became the hall-mark of the club and were enthusiastically supported by its members. One could have up to thirty amateurs, from Limerick and other parts of the country on many of these events. The trips to the islands became the pinnacle of the club's annual activities and forged life-long friendships between those members who participated in them.

In 1979 a sub-committee was formed in the Club to investigate the setting-up of a 2 metre voice repeater for the region. It was not long before a suitable location had been identified and the appropriate equipment installed on our own hill-top site.

The first 2 meter voice repeater in Ireland had commenced operation and EI4LRC had become a reality.

It is worth mentioning that this repeater has been in continuous operation since then, with only minor down-times for routine maintenance.

On the introduction of Packet Radio to Ireland, a digi-peater was commissioned by the Club and installed at our hill-top QTH. This system facilitates the transmission of packet traffic throughout much of Ireland and has become a very important link in the EI packet network system.

In the late eighties the Club decided to hold its first public Radio & Electronics Fair in Limerick. This was held in a local hotel and club members, their families and the general public were invited to attend.

From the outset it proved to be a great success and has become a very important annual event in the Club's calendar.

Trade suppliers of radio, electronics and computer equipment, from Ireland and the UK attend and display the very latest equipment.

A "Bring and Buy Sale" is a must at these events so that members have an opportunity to buy/sell second-hand equipment.

The Fair is a wonderful way of bringing many radio enthusiasts to the one venue, where they can view the latest technological developments in radio and electronics equipment.

They are also an ideal opportunity to publicise the activities of amateur radio to the general public.

Next years Radio & Electronics Fair takes place in the Green Hills Hotel Ennis Road Limerick on Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup> 2007.

The future of amateur radio is well assured in the Limerick Radio Club as the present committee and members of the club look forward to the challenges of emerging technologies in radio, computer and the internet.

In this regard the committee is currently evaluating the practicality of linking the 2 meter voice repeater to the internet using IRLP or Echolink systems or both. It is hoped that a decision on this will be made in the very near future.

The linking of the repeater to the internet will expose the use of the repeater to a world-wide amateur audience and should greatly increase the level of activity through it.

Limerick Radio Club has been in existence for sixty years and its members look forward to the future, with the same keen interest and enthusiasm, as its founding members did in the distant past.

For more information please have a look at Club Events and Club Meetings our web page <http://www.qsl.net/ei4lrc/>



John EI6IW, Mike EI2IX and Albert EI9IY relaxing at Club Special Event Station EI60LRC in Bunratty Folk Park, November 18th 2006.



**L to R:** Michael EI4R, Paddy EI3AV, John EI?, Sean EI3B, Pat EI2DF, Joe EI4AI, Tom EI9BG, Manageress of Franco's Inn, Tom Corry EI127, John EI9AD, Eoin EI6BX and SWL ??, Franco's Inn, Tarbert, Kerry, late 1960s.



**L to R:** seated Tim Gallivan EI4E, Sean Merry EI3B, Terry Deegan EI4BK, Michael Crowley EI4R, Paddy Maher EI3AV, Joe Murphy EI4AI, Tom Corry EI127 and Eamon Cassidy EI5AJ, Valentia Island DXpedition 1962.



**Back:** Mike EI2CL, Tom EI127, Bernie EI6AX and his XYL, **Front:** Peter EI7CC, Terry EI4BK, Tom EI9BG, Paddy EI3AV and Ger EI8CC, Bere Island, June 7th 1971.



Prime Minister of Slovenia and John EI5FOB, 2004

IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS' SOCIETY  
JUNE REGION 4 DX - PDITION 1968

# E I Ø R F

BERE ISLAND, IRELAND

BERE ISLAND, ATLANTIC OCEAN,  
SOUTH WEST IRELAND  
1970.

# E I Ø A O

REGION 4 I.R.T.S. EXPEDITION

To ..... Confirming our 2 Way ☐ CW ☐ SSB ☐ QSO  
of ..... 1970 at ..... G.M.T. on ..... Mh/z.  
Ur sigs were ..... 73 Opf.....

IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY  
(REGION FOUR)  
— AND —  
LIMERICK RADIO CLUB  
EXPEDITION — JUNE 1st 2nd 3rd 1974  
CLARE ISLAND, CLEW BAY, CO. MAYO, IRELAND  
(WAI—AREA L78)

# E I - Ø A

QSO with	Date	G.M.T.	MHz	R.S.T.	Mode	Operator
					CW	
					SSB	

Please QSL via —  
IRTS QSL BUREAU, P.O. BOX 462, DUBLIN 9, IRELAND **Beir Beannacht**

*Limerick Radio Club*  
CLUB STATION EI4LRC

1991 LIMERICK  
LIMERICK TREATY  
300

IN 1991 LIMERICK CELEBRATES THE TERCENTENARY OF ITS FAMOUS TREATY!

**Tarbert Island Lighthouse**  
**EI4TLH**

**Ei4LRC**  **LIMERICK RADIO CLUB**  
[www.qsl.net/ei4lrc](http://www.qsl.net/ei4lrc)  
[ei4lrc@eircom.net](mailto:ei4lrc@eircom.net)

*Fáilte go hÉireann*

TO RADIO		DATE	
GMT	MHz	2WAY	RST
		SSB	CW

QSL PSE, TNX, 73

**Ei60LRC**  
[www.qsl.net/ei4lrc](http://www.qsl.net/ei4lrc)  
[ei4lrc@eircom.net](mailto:ei4lrc@eircom.net)  
**LIMERICK RADIO CLUB**  
CLUB STATION  
**60th ANNIVERSARY**

*Fáilte go hÉireann*

TO RADIO		DATE	
GMT	MHz	2WAY	RST
		SSB	CW

QSL PSE, TNX, 73



## Outgoing QSL Bureau

The outgoing bureau still receives cards for countries that do not have a QSL bureau. This creates unnecessary work for Tony EI8JK, all because you do not take the trouble to establish the proper QSL route for your card..

Always mail your cards directly to the Outgoing Manager, Tony Baldwin EI8JK, Rathlin, Kilcrohane, Co. Cork.

Cards mailed to P.O. Box 462 in Dublin will almost certainly be delayed.

It is not fair to expect the Society to pay the postage again to get your package to West Cork.

A useful web site for finding QSL managers of stations that you worked and forgot to ask, is <http://www.dxlabsuite.com/pathfinder>.

This gives you access to QRZ.com and all the major callsign and QSL Manager lookup sites on one screen.

If all else fails, then send an e-mail to our HF correspondent, Dave EI9FBB and he will definitely have the necessary information.

Please check the updated list below before you mail cards to the outgoing bureau.

### Countries with no QSL Bureau

A3	Tonga	V3	Belize
A51	Bhutan	V4	St Kitts Nevis
A6	UAE	V6	Micronesia
C5	Zambia	VP2E	Anguilla
C6	Bahamas	VP2M	Monserrat
C21	Nauru	XU	Campuchea
CN	Morocco	XW	Laos
D2	Angola	XZ	Mynamar
D4	Cape Verde	YA	Afghanistan
E3	Eritrea	Z2	Zimbabwe
HK	Colombia	ZA	Albania
HM	North Korea	ZD7	St Helena
HV	Vatican	ZD9	Tristan da Cunha
HZ	Saudi Arabia	3B	Mauritius
J5	Guinea-Bissau	3DA	Swaziland
J6	St Lucia	3W	Vietnam
J8	St Vincent	3X	Guinea
P2	Papua N Guinea	4J	Azerbaijan
PZ	Suriname	5A	Libya
S7	Seychelles	5R	Madagascar
S9	Sao Tome	5T	Mauritania
ST	Sudan	5U	Nigeria
SU	Egypt	5V	Togo
T2	Tuvalu	7O	Yemen
T3	Kiribati	7P	Lesotho
T5	Somalia	7Q7	Malawi
TJ	Cameroon	8Q	Maldives
TL	C African Rep	9N	Nepal
TN8	Congo	9Q	Zaire
TT8	Chad	9U	Burundi
TY	Benin	9X	Rwanda
UK	Uzbekistan	9Y	Trinidad & Tobago

### 500 kHz

#### a "Heritage Frequency"?

The first international radio conference was held 100 years ago this month. The International Radiotelegraph Conference held in Berlin in November, 1906 established "SOS" as the international distress signal and designated 500 kc (kilocycles) as the international distress and calling frequency.

The Britain's Radio Officers' Association is using the occasion of the centennial to kick off a campaign to have 500 kHz designated worldwide as the "radiotelegraphy heritage frequency" at the centre of a "radiotelegraphy heritage band" between 495 and 505 kHz or from 495-513 kHz.

According to the group's website, "500 kHz is the only spot frequency in the whole spectrum that can be identified as having life saving historical significance.

It can be retained and continue to be used to demonstrate its past role for the benefit of future generations."

### Theory Classes

#### Ballinasloe

Theory classes for the Experimenters Radio Licence are underway in Garbally Collage, Ballinasloe and interested parties should contact Noel EI6HW by e-mail at "nfmulvihill at eircom dot net".

#### Waterford

There are now seventeen participants on the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group Theory Classes, which are to space restrictions this class is now full and the group cannot take on any new candidates for this course.

#### South Dublin Radio Club

Theory classes are ongoing at the South Dublin Radio Club. Just call along any Tuesday night to the club meeting from 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm in the Ballyroan Community Centre, Marian Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin. For information contact Michael EI2GKB on 087-2481970

#### Cork

Classes will commence in Carrigtwohill in early January and intending participants should contact Dave Moore EI4BZ on 086-6290574 or [ei4bz@eircom.net](mailto:ei4bz@eircom.net)

# IRTS Delegation Received by President McAleese

On Wednesday November 15th last, a delegation from IRTS was received by President McAleese at Arus an Uachtarán.

The delegation consisted of IRTS President Finbarr EI1CS, Vice President Paul Martin EI2CA, committee member Paul O'Kane EI5DI, Gerard Gervin EI8CC, Joseph Deery EI4JA (who is a young white stick operator) and two sponsors of next year's CQIR event, John and Monica Kinsella of Dargle Builders.

The group outlined to the President some of the plans for next years Jubilee celebrations. She was particularly interested to hear that it is hoped to site the HQ station for the CQIR event in the environs of the Arus, and to have it manned by young operators.

If circumstances permit she would like to visit the station. and she recognised the role that amateur radio could play in the Gaisce awards scheme.

She wished the society well for the year ahead and particularly hoped that the CQIR would be a great success in uniting the "Irish diaspora" with the homeland.

On behalf of the Society Finbarr thanked the President for receiving the group and entertaining them to tea.

He presented her with an engraved plate in Dublin Crystal containing the name of the Society, its logo, and the years 1932 - 2007.



Picture above shows Gerard Gervin EI8CC, Paul O'Kane EI5DI, Finbarr EI1CS IRTS President, President Mary MacAleese, John and Monica Kinsella of Dargle Builders, sponsors of the CQIR Contest, Joseph Deery EI4JA and Paul Martin EI2CA IRTS Vice-President.



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN  
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT McALEESE

It gives me great pleasure to send my congratulations to The Irish Radio Transmitters Society, on the occasion of your 75th Anniversary.

Radio technology has come a long way since the Dublin Wireless Club was working with radio pioneers such as Marconi, Lee de Forrest and Col. Dennis. Your encouragement of young people to follow careers in electronics and communications technology demonstrates your Society's ongoing commitment to the science of radio telecommunications which plays an ever-increasing role in our day-to-day lives.

I am confident that your invitation to the global Irish amateur radio family to take part in a world-wide context 'Ireland Calling . . . CQIR' will be a great success, and that the young people manning the radio station as part of the Gaisce – The President's Award, will benefit greatly from their experience.

May you have a most enjoyable year and I wish you every success in your future endeavours.

MARY McALEESE  
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND



# Emergency Communications

## AREN support Comeragh Cycle race

On the 27th August, four AREN members, John Ketch, Conor O'Neill, Declan Horan and John Ronan, in co-operation with members of the South East Amateur Radio Group and local operators, provided safety communications for a cycling race in Waterford.

Local man Richie Ryan, EI9HR spearheaded the operation. Twelve stations including net control (ably manned by John McCarthy, EI8JA) were in operation. Some stations operated mobile, leading the main groups of riders while others manned potentially dangerous junctions along the seven mile route.

The mobile stations notified the portable stations when cyclists were approaching in time for the adjoining roads to be closed and the junction cleared of vehicles. The portable stations would indicate to the marshals when to close the junction. This allowed the cyclists to pass through unimpeded. The radio operators were also on standby to pass information regarding any potential accidents to the emergency services, but thankfully, no injuries occurred on the day.

While the riders completed numerous laps of the short course, the large number of junctions and rider groups resulted in heavy traffic on the voice channel. This tested everyone's operating skills in their ability to get clear messages through in the shortest time. It was no place for rag chewing that's for sure.

APRS was used by a few stations to good effect. Any portable station at a junction with a TH-D7 could see where John, EI7IGs group were at all times and what speed they were traveling at. More widespread use of APRS would reduce voice traffic significantly in such an event.

A local SEARG repeater was used for voice comms and some of the radios used were loaned by Neil EI3JE.

In addition to those named above, the following played key roles both on the day



**John Ronan EI7IG and Conor O'Neill EI4JN on the Comeragh Mountains**

and in advance preparations. They are John EI8JA, John EI8FRB, Brian EI8JS, Nickey EI3JB, Gareth EI7FZB and Mick EI3IQ most of whom have since joined AREN and we are delighted to have them on board.

The weather was fantastic for the race and all involved had a great day. At the prize-giving the Chairman of the Comeragh Cycling Club expressed his sincere gratitude to the amateur radio personnel who assisted with the event and gestured that their assistance would be welcomed on future events.

Since the end of the summer, marked by the Road Racing event in Waterford it's been all go for AREN. Winter is traditionally the busy training period and this year we've also recruited many new members.

Here's some of what we've been up to

### Field search skills course

Three AREN delegates EI7IG, EI4JN and EI2JB recently attended a course on Field Search Skills hosted by the South East Mountain Rescue Association.

The 2 days of instruction included both classroom tuition and practical exercises held in the Comeragh mountains. This

included a night exercise on the Saturday night. Other professional and volunteer organisations represented included the Garda Síochána, the Coastguard, the Civil Defense and SEMRA.

While AREN's involvement in missing person search operations will principally be of a communications nature, it is important for members to be cognisant of the methods used and the challenges faced by the search teams. For this purpose, a training module 'AREN and SAR' will be delivered to members in the near future.

The first IARU Emmcomm party on the air took place on the 18 November. Many thanks to Dave EI4BZ for running the IRTS AREN station.

The monthly on-air training nets continue on the third Wednesday of each month. At the time of writing, modules covering Antennas for Emergency Communications and APRS have been completed. Modules to look forward to in the New Year include PSK-31 and AREN for Search Operations. The on-air training nets in addition to covering the material

*(Continued on page 17)*

(Continued from page 16)

at hand give members opportunity to test their NVIS antenna installations and gain net control experience.

Field training continues in the form of joint exercises with the emergency services. As this goes to press, four members will be high on the Galtees with the South East Mountain Rescue Association who are holding a weekend long, training exercise.

### West Cork Rally

Following the success of ARENs technical contribution to last years West Cork Rally, the Clerk of the Course has once again requested assistance for the 2007 event. The event based in Clonakilty, takes place on St Patrick's weekend.

It has come to our attention that Kenwood's TM-D700 and TH-D7 are no longer available in Europe. These were the only radios commercially available with APRS built-in. One can only wonder what marvels Kenwood will pack into their replacement models as no information is available at the moment.

Recently acquired by EI4JN and EI7IG are West Mountain Radio PWRgate PG40s.

In use, this device is connected to a 12 Volt DC Power Supply Unit (PSU), a battery and a load.

It will normally pass power from the PSU to the load but should the mains power fail it will supply power from the battery instead, the changeover is completely transparent.

In addition to the switching function, it has a built-in charger which will recharge the battery when mains power is restored. The maximum charge current can be set to suit the capacity of the battery in use. EI4JN also acquired a Whatts-up meter. This little gem fits between a DC supply and load to measure Volts, Amps, Watts, AmpHrs, and so on.

When operating a station from battery power, by knowing how much power has been consumed at any time, it is possible to estimate how much operating time left. It comes with power-pole terminals already fitted

## Rules

### 11th Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge

1. Contest period: 1500Z December 30th to 1500Z December 31st, 2006. Operate for a maximum of 14 hours. Off times are 30 minutes minimum and a maximum of four off periods are permitted.
2. Bands and mode: 160 meters CW only.
3. Categories: Single operator or multi-operator. Remote or Cluster spotting shall not be used. All transmitting and receiving antennas used must be within 100 km of each other.
4. Exchange: Four character grid square (i.e. CN85).
5. QSO Points: The number of QSO points for each contact depends on the distance between the two stations. This is computed by taking the distance between the centers of the two grid squares. Count a minimum of one point per QSO and an additional point for every 500 kilometers distance. For example, a QSO with a station 1750 kilometers away will count for 4 QSO points. No additional distance for long path is allowed. QSO Points are multiplied by 2X if you work a low power station and 4X for working a QRP station. This is done based upon received logs and is computed automatically during the log checking process. Do not worry if your logging software does not compute the QSO points. Our automated log checking software does this.
6. Score: Final score equals the total number of QSO points. There is no multiplier for different grids worked. Stations running 5 to 100 watts output multiply their score by 2. Stations running less than 5 watts multiply their score by 4. Scores will be grouped by category.
7. Reporting: Your log can be sent via the internet to TBDC@CONTESTING.COM using the Cabrillo format before January 31st, 2007. Paper entries can be mailed to BARC 15125 SE Bartell Rd; Boring, OR 97009. If possible, please provide an electronic copy of your log. You can use the tool INSTEW.EXE to generate a Cabrillo log from your paper log. It can be found at <http://web.jzap.com/k7rat/stew.html>.
8. Plaques will be awarded for categories we have sponsors for. To volunteer to sponsor a plaque, contact Lew Sayre, W7EW at [Lew@dsl-only.net](mailto:Lew@dsl-only.net). A list of the plaques sponsored can be found on the web at <http://jzap.com/k7rat/stew.html>. Certificates will also be sent to the high scores in each grid field (first two letters of the grid). This service is provided by Jim, K1PX.
9. Results are published on the web in September or October. Look for an announcement on the topband and contest reflectors.

### 2006 VHF/UHF Squares Table

Callsign	50 MHz	70 MHz	144 MHz	432 MHz	1296 MHz	Totals
EI5FK	238	10	80	24	0	352
EI2JD	275	0	23	0	0	298
EI3IO	202	33	21	1	0	257
EI7IX	139	23	5	0	0	167
EI9FVB	124	0	0	0	0	124
EI3GRB	91	0	21	0	0	112
EI8JK	22	0	37	0	0	59
EI3IX	41	0	10	1	0	52
EI4BZ	0	0	13	3	0	16
EI7FAB	0	1	7	2	0	10

Submissions to VHF Manager Joe Fadden EI3IX at  
[joe-fadden@yahoo.com](mailto:joe-fadden@yahoo.com)

## Award “Famous Amateur Radio”



The section ARI of Sala Consilina (SA) ITALY, has founded the permanent award FARA “Famous Amateur Radio Award”.

### General requirements:

Awards are available to all amateurs and SWLs for worked or heard the countries of the following list where they were born some famous radioamateurs.

All the QSO made from year 1970 are valid to claim the award.

### Bands & Modes:

All the bands assigned to the Radio Amateur Service and all the modes are allowed, satellites and WARC included.

There are 2 versions of the award:

- 1) HF (are enough 10 countries)
- 2) 50MHZ/VHF/UHF (are enough only 6 countries to claim the award)

I countries sono i seguenti:

- 1) Argentina LU (LU1SM C.L. Menem, ex president of Argentina)
- 2) Bolivia CP (CP1CL Dr. H. Panzer, ex president of Bolivia)
- 3) Brasile PY (PY1JKO J.K. de Oliveira, ex presidente of Brasil SK)
- 4) Cook ZK (ZK1AN Sir T. Davis, President of Cook is.)
- 5) Giordania JY (JY1 King Hussein of Giordania SK)
- 6) India VU (VU2SON Sonia Ghandi)
- 7) Italia I (I0FCG Sen. Francesco Cossiga, ex President of Italian Republic, I2NSF A. Fogar SK)
- 8) Libano OD (OD5LE Emil Lahoud, president of Libano)
- 9) Marocco CN (CN8MH Hassan II, King of Marocco SK)
- 10) Monaco 3A (3A0AG Alberto Grimaldi, Prince of Monaco)
- 11) Oman A4 (A41AA Q. Bin Said Al-Said, Sultan dell'Oman)
- 12) Perù OA (OA4FB F. Belante Terry, ex President of Perù)
- 13) Polinesia Francese FO (FO5GJ Marlon Brando)
- 14) Polonia SP (SP3RN Father Massimiliano Kolbe SK)
- 15) Russia UA (UA1LO Yuri Gagarin astronaut)
- 16) Spagna EA (EA0JC Juan Carlos de Borbone, King of Spagna)
- 17) Tailandia HS (HS1A Bhumiphol Adulayadej, King of Tailandia)
- 18) USA A-N-K-W (N6YOS Priscilla Presley, WB6ACU Joe Walsh, Rock musician (James Gang and the Eagles)

To claim the Award the QSL cards are not required but they must be in possession of the applicant and could be requested anytime for checks.

The fee is 10 Euro or 12 Dollars. To receive the Award as registered mail, the fee IS 13 Euro or 16 Dollars

Application forms must be sent to this address:

ARI SEZIONE SALA CONSILINA  
CASELLA POSTALE N.11  
CAP 84036 SALA CONSILINA (SA)  
ITALY

For more information and to receive the application forms you can contact the award manager IZ8AJQ Erminio via email: [iz8ajq@amsat.org](mailto:iz8ajq@amsat.org)

## Hams on 500 kHz Band Heard Widely

A group of U.S. hams operating in the vicinity of 500 kHz under a special experimental license have been heard in Europe and in Hawaii, and are making contacts with each other, generally at distances of a few hundred miles.

The ARRL Letter reports that the group, operating as WD2XSH, has been authorized to operate for two years between 505 and 510 kHz.

Project manager Fritz Raab, W1FR, envisions a secondary amateur radio allocation in the "600-meter band" that could support amateur radio emergency communications via groundwave.

## IRTS 75th Jubilee AGM Weekend

### April 21/22nd 2007

## Vienna Woods Hotel, Cork

Next year we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> jubilee of the IRTS and the committee are pleased to announce that the Jubilee Annual General Meeting weekend will be held at the Vienna Woods Hotel in Cork on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007.

The event is being organised by a sub-committee of the IRTS committee.  
Enquiries to Dave EI4BZ 087-6290574

## EI's on EQSL DXCC 02/12/2006

### DXCC Confirmed

162	EI7BA	Approved
134	EI3IO	
131	EI4CF	Approved
108	EI2JD	Approved
105	EI6IZ	Approved
97	EI9FBB	Approved
94	EJ9FBB	Approved
89	EI9HQ	Approved
88	EJ9HQ	Approved
87	EI6HB	
80	EI6AL	Approved
74	EI9ES	Approved
72	EI6JK	
65	EI7M	
64	EI9FVB	
63	EI8FH	Approved
62	EI8GP	
61	EI4IS	
61	EI7IX	Approved
59	EI2II	Approved
58	EI9JF	
56	EI1DG	
55	EI0CZ	
54	EI7IQ	
53	EI/DH0GSU/p	
51	EI9JM	
50	EI6AK	
49	EI8DD	
45	EI6CPB	Approved
46	EI8DL	Approved
42	EI3HA	
41	EI3EBB	
39	EI6IF	
39	EI9CF	
38	EI7BMB	
37	EI6ARB	Approved
36	EI4HQ	
34	EI7BFB	
32	EI4HH	Approved
29	EI90GPO	
28	EI1KARG	
25	EI2FS	

## Worked All States 02/12/2006

50	EI9FBB	Approved
50	EJ9FBB	Approved
49	EI9HQ	
49	EJ9HQ	
48	EI4CF	
43	EI3IO	
43	EI4IS	
43	EI6HB	
42	EI8GP	
41	EI7BA	
36	EI2JD	

## EI DXCC Listings

(as at December 3rd 2006)

### Mixed

344	EI7CC	Peter Ball
340	EI2GS	Frank O'Brien
339	EI8H	Patrick Fagan
334	EI6FR	Declan Craig
324	EI6S	George McClarey
306	EI2HY	Anthony O'Rourke
262	EI2GX	Tony Stack
224	EI4BZ	Dave Moore
206	EI9FBB	Dave Deane
197	EI2JD	Thos Caffrey
187	EI7BA	John Tait
165	EI8IU	Brian Canning
132	EI6IZ	Brendan Minish
128	EI8HA	Jim Murphy
109	EI6HB	Denis O'Flynn
107	EI9HQ	Declan Lennon
104	EI5GM	Jeremy Sheehan

### Phone

343	EI7CC	Peter Ball
338	EI2GS	Frank O'Brien
330	EI8EM	Alan Cronin
328	EI8AR	Bro. John Shortall
320	EI6S	George McClarey
300	EI8AU	Bill O'Reilly (SK)
256	EI3GV	Brendan de hÓra
253	EI4GK	Sean Donelan
206	EI9FBB	Dave Deane
186	EI7II	Albert Kleyn
180	EI2JD	Thos Caffrey
177	EI9FE	Mike Hoare
165	EI2CH	Gerry Morgan
166	EI7GL	John Desmond
144	EI4BZ	Dave Moore
132	EI7BA	John Tait
122	EI8IU	Brian Canning
119	EI4HH	Jim Holohan
118	EI9JF	Nicki Mullally
114	EI4EX	Hugh McCormack (SK)
105	EI9HX	Pat O'Connor
105	EI1CS	Rev Finbarr Buckley
102	EI9HQ	Declan Lennon
101	EI3IP	Sean Ó Súilleabháin

### CW

307	EI7CC	Peter Ball
207	EI4BZ	Dave Moore
157	EI7BA	John Tait
118	EI6IZ	Brendan Minish
109	EI2IH	Hugh Galt
109	EI4HM	Don Walmsley
107	EI/GM4ARJ	JW Ferguson
106	EI1DG	Patrick McGrath
102	EI8IU	Brian Canning

### RTTY/Digital

### Satellite

### 160m

### 80m

### 40m

### 30m

### 20m

### 17m

### 15m

### 12m

### 10m

### 6m

### 2m

### DXCC Challenge

### DXCC Honor Roll

### Mixed

### Phone

### New entrants are in bold.

### The 5 Band DXCC award holders are not listed by ARRL. If you have the 5BDXCC or know of someone who has, please let us know. Holders known to us are EI8EI (SK), EI6S, EI8AR and EI4BZ.

### No Entry

### No Entry

### No entry

### Dave Moore

### John Desmond

### Dave Moore

### No entry

### Dave Deane

### No entry

### Dave Moore

### Sean Donelan

### Thos Caffrey

### John Desmond

### Dave Court

### John Desmond

### Alan Foley

### No entry

### Peter Ball

# IRTS 80m Counties Contest - January 1st 2007

The Society will launch its 75th Anniversary celebrations on New Year's Day with the 80 metre Counties Contest. This was a very popular event last year with almost 100 EI and GI stations active. Given that's its the Jubilee Year, we are asking everybody to make a special effort to be QRV, for at least part of the Contest which runs from 1200 to 1500 hours local time. Full rules are printed below.

## Participation Certificate

As a special incentive, all stations who submit a log to the contest manager will be awarded a special Participation Certificate to hang on the shack wall.

## Jubilee WEIC Award

In addition, there will be a special Jubilee Year edition of the Worked All EI Counties Award available for award chasers. QSOs for this award must be made during 2007 and importantly, QSL cards are not required..

Given last years 80 metre Counties Contest activity, is it possible that a '26 Counties endorsed' Award number One will be achieved on the first day of the new year?

Anyone intending to activate any of the rarer counties are asked to notify the IRTS News Service at [news@irts.ie](mailto:news@irts.ie)  
Good luck in the contest!

## Rules

### 1 General:

All entrants must be fully paid up members of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society.  
This does not apply to stations outside EI.

### 2 Date and Time:

2.1 1st. January 2007 - from 1200 to 1500.

### 3 Sections:

- 3.1 a) SSB only Fixed  
b) SSB only portable – 100w max.  
SSB Field Day Restricted Section rules apply  
c) SSB/CW fixed.  
d) SSB/CW portable – 100w max.  
SSB Field Day Restricted Section rules apply
- 3.2 Whether portable or fixed, entrants must operate from a single location for the duration of the contest.

### 4 Modes and Frequencies:

- 4.1 SSB and CW. A station may be worked on both modes - except in the SSB Only sections.
- 4.2 Only one signal may be transmitted at a time.
- 4.3 QSOs with the same station on different modes must be separated by at least three other QSOs.

### 5 Exchange:

- 5.1 Exchange report, serial number (starting 001 for the first contact) and county e.g. 59001, Wicklow.

### 6 Special Rules for Counties Contests:

- 6.1 At the discretion of the Contest Manager, entries from stations with poor-quality signals (too wide, overdriven, distorted etc.) will not be eligible for any award and will be treated as check logs.

### 7 Scoring:

- 7.1 For entrants in EI/GI:  
Any County in EI/GI 4 points  
Contacts outside EI/GI 1 point
- 7.2 Entrants outside EI/GI:  
Each contact with EI/GI 4 points
- 7.3 The final score is the total number of points multiplied by the total number of EI/GI counties worked.  
In the SSB/CW sections, counties only count once.

### 8 Documentation:

- 8.1 Submitted logs should be legible. Accepted formats are handwritten, typed, computer print, or ASCII text files on disk or by email.
- 8.2 A summary sheet should show:
- Station location.
  - Section entered  
(one section only – do not leave blank).
  - Final claimed score.
  - Equipment used.
  - Name(s) and callsign(s) of operator(s).

### 9 Awards:

- 9.1 An award will be made to the leading EI station in each section.
- 9.2 An award will be made to the leading station outside EI in each section.
- 9.3 A Participation Certificate will be sent to everyone submitting a log.

### 10 Entries:

- 10.1 Entries, which must be signed, should be sent to:  
The IRTS Counties Contest, P.O. Box 462, Dublin 9,  
or by email to [contests@irts.ie](mailto:contests@irts.ie) to arrive not later than 30 days after the event.

## KARG Trip to Met Observatory and Costal Radio Station

The Kerry Amateur Radio Group made a combined trip to the Valentia Observatory and the Valentia Coastal Radio Station on Saturday, 18 November, 2006.

Present on the day were Ron EI2JP, Trevor EI4DWB, Billy EI7CQB, Chris EI9CZB, John EI9ESB, Joe EI9HO, John EI9JO and SWL Caoimhe Hahn.

The attendees had a very comprehensive and interesting tour, under beautiful fall skies, of the entire Valentia Observatory and Museum, led by Michael Gill of Met Eireann.

During the visit, the group had the opportunity to observe the preparation, launching, and subsequent real-time tracking of a weather balloon with radiosonde attached.

After an excellent lunch at the Ring of Kerry Hotel in Cahirciveen, the group had an informative tour of the facilities at the Valentia Coastal Radio Station, including a live demonstration of Nav-Tex in action.

The club's officers wish to thank Michael Gill of Met Eireann and Kenny, the Duty Officer of Valentia Coastal Radio Station for allowing the club access to their facilities and for giving such informative tours.

Based on the success of this day trip, the club is planning further day trips to places of interest to Radio Experimenters in the new year.

### Next Meeting

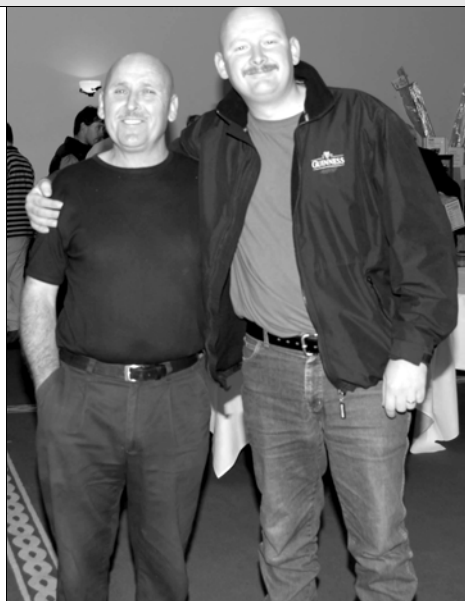
The next monthly club meeting is on Saturday, 6 January 2007 in the coffee shop at Muckcross House, Killarney National Park, starting at 10am.

## Waterford Rally 2006

Pictures by Patrick Duggan



John EI2HW seated, with Michael EI5DCB, Rally organiser



John EI8FRB and Gareth EI7FZB



Limerick R.C. Tony EI2AW, Eoin EI6BX, (RIP) and Alan EI8EM

## TV on a Light Beam

It may sound like science fiction, but a group of amateurs in Australia has sent a slow-scan TV image over a 13-mile path using modulated light on 474 THz. According to Newline, analog SSTV pictures were exchanged back and forth along the path, as well as lightwave voice contacts among team members.

A .wav file was also sent using JT65, but had not yet been decoded as of press time, so it was not yet known whether that mode had been successful as well. Further experiments are planned.

# The 75th Jubilee Worked EI Counties Award

The Worked EI Counties Jubilee Award is for working (or hearing) stations located in different counties of Ireland during the 75th Jubilee Year 2007.

## Rules

The WEIC Jubilee Award, issued by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, is available to licensed amateurs worldwide who have worked stations located in different counties of Ireland (EI/EJ). It is available to SWL's on a "heard" basis.

Only contacts made during the year 2007 are valid. There will be a charge of €5.00, Stg £5.00 or US \$10.00 for the award.

A separate "All 26" sticker will be available for confirmation with all 26 counties.

For applicants in EI only:

All contacts must be made from the home station. Contacts made via repeaters or while operating mobile, portable or from an alternative address are not reckonable.

Requirements:

Work/hear 20 of the 26 EI/EJ Counties.

QSLs are not required.

Submit a log extract certified by a club officer or two licensed experimenters.

## The 26 EI Counties are:

Carlow	Cavan	Clare	Cork
Donegal	Dublin	Galway	Kerry
Kildare	Kilkenny	Laois	Leitrim
Limerick	Longford	Louth	Mayo
Meath	Monaghan	Offaly	Roscommon
Sligo	Tipperary	Waterford	Westmeath-
Wexford	Wicklow		

## Outgoing QSL Bureau

Mail your cards directly to the Outgoing Bureau Manager:

**Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,**  
**Rathlin, Kilcrohane,**  
**Co. Cork.**  
**ei8jk@amsat.org**



## Reading the Mail

By

**Michael McNamara, EI2CL**

Welcome to compilation #44 of "Reading the Mail", an account of IRTS incoming QSL Bureau activity from 11 September to 17 November 2006.

As has been the position for some time, there is not a lot to report but for the record small packets (less than 1 kg) came from ARI x2, EDR x2, G3TXF, IARC, KARS, LABRE (CE), ÖVSV, URA, and VK3. Heavier lots came from SRR and SSA (2kg each), Dutch QSL bureau, (3.9 kg) and DARC (9.7kg).

Cards from the following were thought worthy of mention: A25/DL7CM, AX3GAMES, DA0FIFA, E4/DF3EC, HN0Z, SA80IARU, SI9AM, SU/KJ9I, SU9GD, T6X, T9/VE3ZIK, TC430ZB, V31WD, YI9ZF, ZA/DL3OCH, 4X0MS, 4X17I, 4Z0V, 5H1HS and 9K9K.

For IOTA chasers, notables were A35VB, AH7C, C98RF, H44MS, RI9K, VI5BR, XF2ZEX, ZK2VB, 5R8HH and 9V1JA.

Congratulations to all recipients.

Until my next report, all best wishes for Christmas and lots of nice DX in 2007.

Wszystkiego najlepszego z okazji Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Nowego Roku!

Поздравляю с Рождеством и с новым годом, и желаю всего доброго в 2007 г!

Michael McNamara, EI2CL

## Monthly 4 Metre Net

The 4-metre activity night takes place on the first Tuesday of each month between 20:00 and 22:00 local time. The next activity night is Tuesday the 2nd of January. Please send reports to "ei3ix at eircom dot net".

Call in frequency is 70.2625 MHz.

So if you have any AM/FM/SSB gear, vertically or horizontally polarised, give a call in!

Have a listen for the 4-metre simplexer on 70.350 MHz.

## Lough Erne Amateur Radio Show Share Centre, Lisnaskea April 15th 2007

Details from:

Alan GI6PYP on 07771 811484 or 0286 6351108

E-mail: alan.r.gault@homecall.co.uk

<http://www.lougherneradioclub.co.uk/>



## Letters to the Editor....

Dear Sir,

I have recently sent the content of this email to COMREG but just wondered if any other experimenter is experiencing similar problems.

I have been experiencing RF interference for the last few months between the following frequencies: 145.725 MHz and 145.735 MHz, 24 hours a day. Its difficult to get a direction on the source as its so strong, most likely from the North of my location.

It appears to be a carrier of very high signal strength i.e. full scale deflection S9+++.

During an ESB power outage in my area I also received the interference using a battery powered handheld VHF transceiver.

My IARU locator is IO63UT (53.50N 06.22W) in County Louth.

I also notice that there is static interference every 45-50 kHz from 3.5 MHz to 30 MHz.

Is anyone else experiencing the same difficulties. ?

Thank you and kind regards,  
Don Brennan EI6IL

### Irish Hour

18th November 2006

Hello to all Experimenters in EI land.

Last Sunday we had a mini Irish Hour on 15 meters (21.317 MHz at 17:00z)  
There was an opening for a while and about seven stations checked in.

W2MAT, W3KEN, W7DFO and myself VE3AO on this side of the pond.  
Jim N7HKO (late of Kilbeggan) has a tower up at his new QTH in Arizona and should active soon.

We are looking out for more activity on that frequency at scheduled time as above.

So fire up those rigs and give us a shout now that band condx are improving.

Mike VE3AO/EI7DH

## New Radio Club Seeks Donations

### Larch Hill Radio Club EI3SI

Scouting Ireland has been working for the past few years on getting a permanent radio shack at the National Scout Camp site at Larch Hill near Rathfarnham in the Dublin Mountains overlooking the city.

The aim of this is to promote Radio Experimentation and hobby electronics in Ireland especially to Scout Leaders and Scouts aged 6 to 21 years.

To date we have a tilt over wind up tower and a radio shack with lockable presses. A new Club has been set up, called the Larch Hill Radio Club, with the permanent callsign EI3SI.

We are now looking for radio equipment to put in the shack.

There is a full "wish list" on the IRTS website and items will be collected at the IRTS stand at all future rallies.

Items can also be dropped into South Dublin Radio Club.

So we ask you to clear out your shacks with all items going to a good cause.  
For details contact Daniel on 087-7731120

## Contest Calendar

### December 2006

1/3rd	2200-1600	ARRL 160m Contest	CW
9/10th	0000-2359	ARRL 10m Contest	CW/Phone
16th	0000-2400	OK DX Contest	RTTY
16/17th	1400-1400	Croatian CW Contest	CW
30th	0000-2359	RAC Canada Winter Contest	CW/Phone
30/31st	1500-1500	Stew Perry Topband Distance Contest	CW

### January 2007

1st	1200-1500	IRTS 80m Contest	CW/SSB
6th	2000-2300	EU 160m Contest (part 1)	CW
7th	0400-0700	EU 160m Contest (part 2)	CW
20th	0600-1400	UT Contest	CW/SSB
20/21st	1200-1200	Hungarian DX Contest	CW/SSB
20/21st	1200-1200	UK DX Contest	RTTY
27/28th	0000-2359	CQ 160m Contest	CW
27/28th	0600-1800	French REF Contest	CW
27/28th	1200-1200	BARTG RTTY Spring Contest	RTTY
27/28th	1300-1300	UBA DX Contest	SSB

### February 2007

10/11th	0000-2359	CQWW RTTY WPX Contest	RTTY
10/11th	1200-1200	Dutch PACC Contest	CW/SSB
10/11th	2100-0100	1st RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW
17/18th	0000-2400	ARRL International DX Contest	CW
24/25th	0000-2400	CQ 160m Contest	SSB
24/25th	0600-1800	French REF Contest	SSB
24/25th	1300-1300	UBA Contest	CW

For details of smaller contests and links to contest rules and results try the following:

WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

SM3CER Contest Service <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>

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## Latest Stock

New Watson 25 Amp PSU .....	£99.00
New Watson 30 Amp Power Supply .....	£129.00
New Watson Hunter Frequency Finder ... ..	£50.00
New Watson FC130 Frequency Finder ... ..	£60.00
Realistic 2004 in nice condition .....	£60.00
Realistic DX 394 boxed, in good condition.....	£65.00
Icom IC756 PRO 3 in pristine condition, boxed with manual etc .....	£1500.00
SM20 Desk mic as new with box .....	£90.00
Icom SP23 mint, as new, with box .....	£85.00
Icom IC 706 HF/2 meters transceiver boxed, in lovely condition.....	£375.00
IC 765 in the box with manual etc, a nice example .....	£625.00
Kenwood TS450 S in perfect working condition, with manual etc.....	£395.00
Navada 2 Kw Antenna Tuner in great condition .....	£150.00
Welz Meter, covers from 000 to 500 .....	£75.00
Kenwood TS50 and AT180, both in nice condition ....	£475.00
Yaesu FT847 in lovely condition ....	£695.00
SLA Amp, 500 watts HF mobile amp never used .....	£150.00
Yaesu FC20 Automatic Tuner .....	£145.00
MC50 desk mic .....	£65.00
Linear Amp SPC Super Tuner in good working condition, approx 1 year old, just been serviced and checked .....	£300.00
Alinco DX701 very clean condition, with manual etc.....	£245.00
New Yaesu GS 065 mast head bearing .....	£47.50
Oskerblick 2000 SWR Meter in used condition, 100% working .....	£50.00

All prices include delivery to the UK and Northern Ireland with one week returns if any item is not as described.

**Trade-ins are always welcome.**  
**All emails will be answered a.s.a.p.**

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### Mobile Antennas

from the Watson , Sirio , Wilson and Multicom range ...for VHF , UHF , HF , CB Radios , Marine Bands , Air Band and Scanning Antennas ...

all available with magmount , boot mount , gutter mount or base mount fittings supplied for where ever you want to place the antenna...expert advice given...

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for HF, VHF and UHF bands from Cushcraft , Long John , MFJ , TH series and others...

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Beams and rotators from the very small range to the much larger multi band beams and rotators and accessories...

All items carry a full 12 months guarantee  
email for price or call Jim Bob at the numbers above

## Antenna Tuners by Ameritron, Linear Amp U.K., MFJ, Vectronics, Mizuho

All types of Coaxial Plugs and Adapters available  
All types of Coax Cable stocked  
Power Cable  
Microphone Plugs and Sockets  
Din Plugs - Banana Plugs  
Ferrite Rings

Too many to list - give me a call

**Seasons Greetings  
to all Readers,  
Customers and Friends**

## IRTS VIDEO LIBRARY

Listed are the videos being held by the IRTS Video Library.  
Please include €2.00 Euro to cover the cost of postage. Send your requests to: Jim Ryan EI3DP, 11 Knockgriffin, Midleton, Co. Cork.

### Amateur Radio for beginners (RSGB)

This is an excellent video in two parts, the hobby of the space age, (22 minutes) followed by "How to become a radio Amateur". (21 minutes)

### Fastnet Force 7

A record of the DXpedition to Fastnet Rock Lighthouse, (40 minutes)

### Kippure

A tour of the RTE Radio/TV site at Kippure mountain (30 minutes)

### Howland Island Dxpediton

Record of the HI Group 1988 trip NO1Z / KH1. (30 minutes)

### The New World of Amateur Radio – ARRL

A short introduction to the hobby of Amateur Radio (30 minutes)

### Amateur TV in Australia – VK5KG

An introduction to FSTV in Australia. (30 minutes)

### Seven Days in Space – NASA

A week on board the American shuttle Discovery. (60 minutes)

### Amateur TV – RSGB

Fastscan TV in UK also includes the VK5KG film. (120 minutes)

### DATA trip to Dayton 1990

A record of the trip to America by the Dublin Amateur Travel Association (120 minutes)

### IRTS Anniversary Lunch

A record of the lunch held in the Clarence Hotel Dublin to pay tribute to the founder members of the IRTS, October 1992. (60 minutes)

### Dublin Texas W5IMF

A tape by W5IMF at the time of the Dublin Millennium 1988, (30 minutes)

### Introduction to Ham Radio

Includes STS 9 mission and fighter aircraft.

(120 minutes)

### Galway Radio Club 1984

Selection of events from 1984/1985. (40 minutes)

### Galway Radio Club 1985

Selection of events from 1985, Field Day, Aerial lecture and River race. (120 minutes)

### Pitcairn Islands

A look at life on the islands including some of the resident amateurs. (70 minutes)

### Getting started in Packet Radio. CQ Mag.

How to set up and get on air with Packet. (45 minutes)

### Radio Team Finland PJ9W-1990 CQWW SSB Contest

An account of the setting up and operation of the winning multi-operator contest station by a team of Finnish operators. (45 minutes)

### CQ Field Day

Setting up and operating a Field Day station for club enjoyment, training and competition American style. (25 minutes)

### Getting Started in Amateur Satellites

A guide to equipment and jargon of satellite communication for the beginner. (50 minutes)

### Campbell Island 1999 – ZL9CI

A record of the record breaking DXpedition to Campbell Island. Declan EI6FR was a team member. (60 mins).

### WRTC 2000 in Slovenia

The 3rd World Radio Team Championships were held in Slovenia in the Summer of 2000.

Jim EI8GS and Dave EI4BZ attended from Ireland.

### Kinsale Lighthouse during International Lighthouse Weekend 2001

Members of the Wicklow Wireless Society and friends acti-

### EI60LRC

Limerick Radio Club is QRV as EI60LRC until the end of the year to mark 60 years since the clubs foundation.

## Members Advertisements

### For Sale:

100 watt 2 metre linear amplifiers (2)  
Power supplies (2)  
Yaesu FT-736R Brand new never used  
Rotator and 430 MHz beam antenna  
Number of other items too  
No reasonable offer refused  
Ring Kenny (086) 1079417

**For Sale:** Mobile trailer/platform to suit versatower or similar:  
Ring 061-397004

### For Sale:

Linear 2 Kw Drake L4B + PSU and spare valves  
Kenwood TS440S + PSU30 and manuals.  
Nye Viking 100w ATU, made in the USA.  
Realistic PRO2004 Scanner. 300 memories, 25MHz to 300MHz with gaps. Discone antenna included.  
Receiver - 108-172MHz with Tx in 144MHz.  
Miscellaneous bits and pieces: 2 Rolls RG82 50 Ohm Coaxial cable, connectors, filters etc  
Ring EI1CY on 086-0615420 or EI4AR on 086-8567675.

**Wanted:** Wind-up, tilt over tower. Will travel anywhere EI/GI  
Ring Dave on 086-3909373

## Canadian Special Prefixes

At the request of Radio Amateurs of Canada, Industry Canada has authorized all Canadian radio amateurs to use special event prefixes for the months of December 2006 and January 2007, to mark the 100th anniversary of the first AM voice broadcast by Reginald Fessenden on Decemebr 24, 1906.

Reginald Fessenden, who was born in East Bolton, Quebec, on October 6, 1866, and lived until July 22, 1932, was the holder of more than 500 patents on a wide variety of subjects, and the inventor of radio as we know it today. He is particularly known for: the first voice transmission by radio in 1900, the first transatlantic two-way radio communications in January 1906, and the first radio broadcasts of entertainment and music in December 1906.

On Christmas Eve, 1906, from a transmitting station in Brant Rock, Massachussetts, he sent a short program which included the song O Holy Night played on the violin and a reading from the Bible. A second short program was broadcast on December 31, 1906.

Canadian radio amateurs are authorized to use the following special event prefixes during the period 1 December 2006 to 31 January 2007 inclusive:

CF for VA stations  
CG for VE stations  
CH for VO stations  
CI0 for VY0 stations  
CI1 for VY1 stations  
CI2 for VY2 stations.

**Phoenix Amateur Radio Club**

# **Radio Rally**

***Sunday 4th February 2007***

**Coolmine Community School  
Blanchardstown, Dublin 15**

**Doors open 1100**

**Admission €4.00.**

The admission fee includes free space on the bring and buy tables

**Doors open for Exhibitors and Traders at 0830**

**For tables - contact Tony on 087-2439997**

**Irish Radio Transmitters Society**

## **The Shop**



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As an extra benefit of membership, IRTS has entered into a special arrangement with the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) for IRTS members to get discounted Amateur Radio Books. This dedicated service is based online so is available to you 24 hours a day. The books are delivered by standard post direct to your door and attract a 10% discount for IRTS Members (Some exceptions apply). The range is wide with titles being stocked from RSGB, ARRL, DARC and many others.

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**Thanks to all our customers for their support  
during the past year.  
Seasons Greetings to you and yours and we look  
forward to being of service again during 2007.**

**Used equipment -  
All covered with three months warranty**

## HF Transceivers

Yaesu FT857D HF + 6m + 2m + 70cm, DSP.	
Special Offer, new .....	€875.00
Icom IC735, 100w HF Rig Mint, 0-30MHz Rx .....	€499.00
Kenwood 570DGE, 100w, Auto ATU, DSP .....	899.00
Icom IC707 Budget priced HF Transceiver. 100w .....	€499.00
Icom IC7000. Latest Icom Multibander.	
Display model .....	€1,299.00
Icom IC706MKII. HF + 6m + 2m inc. DSP .....	€749.00
Kenwood TS-850SAT, Classic HF Rig with Auto ATU	€899.00
Icom IC-746 HF/6m/2m, 100w all mode, one owner	€1249.00
Kenwood TS50S 100w, all mode Mobile HF .....	€599.00
Yaesu FT857D, Mobile HF/6/2/70 DSP, as new .....	€699.00
Yaesu FT 920, HF/6m, Auto ATU, Mint .....	€1299.00
Kenwood TS850 SAT Auto ATU Private Sale .....	€999.00
Alinco DX 70 HF + 6m, 100w mobile rig .....	€599.00

## Shortwave Receivers

AOR 7030. Award Winning Rx. Boxed, mint condx ...	€749.00
Yaesu FRG8800. 0-30MHz also VHF Converter .....	€349.00
Lowe HF225. 0-30MHz, AM/FM option .....	€349.00
Yaesu FRG100. 0-30MHz. All Mode with PSU .....	€499.00
Kenwood R2000 Communications Receiver. Mint .....	€375.00

## VHF/UHF Transceivers

Yaesu FT736R Base station 2m/70cm with 6m fitted	€999.00
Kenwood TM241E 50w 2m mobile. No bracket/book	€149.00
Alinco DJ190 2m handheld with drop in charger .....	€99.00
Icom IC821H 2m/70cm 45/35w base m/mode, Mint ...	€899.00
Icon IC910H, 2m/70cm Base, 100/75w output .....	€1,199.00
Alicno DR605 50/35w dual band mobile .....	€249.00

## Scanning Receivers

Bearcat 780XLT, 25-1300 MHz, no gaps, trunk tracker, 500 memories, alpha tagging. Used. ....	€299.00
Icom PCR1000 with DSP. Computer control. 0-1300MHz with SSB receive. Boxed, as new .....	€375.00
Yaesu VR5000, 0-2600MHz, €250 worth of extras .....	€649.00
Grundig SAT 800 B grade. One only .....	€599.00
Bearcat 220 XLT 66-956 MHz with gaps, 200 memories, with nicads and charger .....	€159.00
AOR 3000A 0-2036 MHz, 400 mems. LSB/USB etc ..	€699.00



**Yaesu FT 2000  
Latest flagship from Yaesu.....€2,999.00**

Yupiteru MVT 9000 1000 channel handheld.	
Full coverage, all mode .....	€299.00
Icom IC7100, 25-2000MHz, 1000 mems, all mode ....	€799.00
Icom IC7000, 25-2000MHz, mint condx .....	€699.00
AOR8200, 0-2000MHz, handheld scanner .....	€349.00
Icom ICR 20. Latest scanner from Icom, Built in recorder .....	€449.00
Uniden Bearcat 3300XLT 1000 ch, 25-1300MHz. with nicads and charger .....	€249.00

## Station Accessories

Alinco EDX-2. Auto ATU, external, for DX70 etc .....	€289.00
Yaesu MD100A8X Desk Mic for FT847/1000/920 .....	€139.00
Kenwood PS33, 20A Matching PSU for TS570/2000 ..	€199.00
Uniden Oceanus Marine VHF, 25w, US & international ..	€139.00
Watson W-30AM. 30-35 Amp PSU with twin meters, volts and amps, 0-15 volts variable .....	€149.00
Kenwood AT50, Auto ATU for TS50 .....	€275.00
Kent Straight Morse key, as new .....	€85.00
MFJ Practice Morse oscillator, straight key .....	€59.00
MFJ 993 Auto ATU, latest model. ....	€279.00
MFJ 949E, 300w ATU, cross needle meters, 300w dummy load, .....	€169.00
Global AT1000, SWL Tuner .....	€75.00

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Yaesu, Kenwood, Alinco, MFJ, Watson, Cushcraft,  
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*Improved Coverage of Ireland now available!*

*Merry Christmas & Happy  
 New Year to you all*

**IC-E7**



Bluetooth Handsfree Unit  
 No Installation  
 No Penalty Points  
 €130



**eTrex**



**NUVI**

**IC-E91**



IC-R5	@	€205.00 + VAT
IC-R20	@	€370.00 + VAT
IC-E7	@	€218.00 + VAT
IC-E90	@	€250.00 + VAT
IC-E91	@	€322.00 + VAT
IC-R1500	@	€599.00 + VAT



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